

October 27, 1977

Memo to File:

Re: Kelmine Corporation  
Oljeto Mine  
ACT/037/029  
San Juan County, Utah

On October 19, 1977, Ron Daniels and myself made a field inspection of the proposed Oljeto Mine located in Sec. 36, T. 43 S., R. 14 E., near Oljeto Utah.

The proposed mining will take place adjacent to a previously mined area. Three (3) abandoned portals with associated spoil dumps are present. Natural revegetation has occurred in the previously disturbed area, however, no vegetation was found on the spoil dumps.

Kelmine has provided adequate surface maps to differentiate their dumps and workings from older dumps and workings. The old inclines are filled with water collected from surface runoff, which will be used by Kelmine in the mining operation.

The vegetation zone is desert grassland and the following species were observed: sand drop seed, thistle, yucca, broom snakeweed, galletta grass, rabbitbrush, ephedra, cliffrose, utah juniper, threeawn, and blue gramma. The range is in good condition. Local Navajos graze the area with sheep and goats but, the range is not overgrazed.

Kelmine proposed two (2) shafts and spoil dumps. Both of the dumps are proposed to be built within washes, but we were assured that the toe of the dumps will be kept out of the bottom of the washes. Surface runoff onto the dumps will be negligible as the topographic divide for the washes are within a short distance of the proposed dumps. Final approval should include a provision requiring regrading of spoils to conform with local topography and covering the gray-green spoils with stockpiled red soil presently found on the proposed spoil dump sites. Spoil material should be kept out of the bottom of the washes. Revegetation mixtures should be reviewed and possibly add cliffrose and bluegramma while deleting russian wild rye.

Under the law, Kelmine is not required to revegetate spoils and close adits of the old mines. It is suggested that we ask Kelmine to shove the spoils heaped around the three old mines into the open adits for safety purposes at the end of their operation. However, the adits may be fenced and kept open to collect water for possible future use.

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Environmental degradation should be negligible. Mining will affect little surface area and Kelmine expects little need for road improvement. The submitted mining and reclamation plan is thorough and well written. It is suggested that tentative approval be given.

K. MICHAEL THOMPSON  
RECLAMATION HYDROLOGIST

*K. M. P.*

/jy















